

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 11

February 13, 1997, 3:11 pm
Page S-1367 Temp. Record

MILK PRICING/Passage

SUBJECT: A resolution regarding the need to address immediately the decline in milk prices . . . S. Res. 55. Passage.

ACTION: RESOLUTION AGREED TO, 83-15

SYNOPSIS: S. Res. 55, a resolution regarding the need to address immediately the decline in milk prices, expresses the sense of the Senate "that the Secretary of Agriculture should consider acting immediately pursuant to his legal authority to modify the Basic Formula Price for dairy by replacing the National Cheese Exchange as a factor to be considered in setting the Basic Formula Price."

Those favoring passage contended:

The support price for milk has dropped by nearly a third in the last 3 months. At the same time, operating costs for dairy farmers have continued to climb. The support price for milk is determined by a formula. That formula takes into consideration the price of cheese at the Green Bay Cheese Exchange in Wisconsin. The amount of cheese traded at that market totals less than one-half of 1 percent of the cheese sold in the United States. A sharp drop in the price of cheese at that market has had a major role in causing the recent drop in the support price for milk. The cheese being traded at the Green Bay Exchange is being traded at rates significantly below normal market rates. Evidence exists that the low rates are being caused by people at that exchange who have a great deal of incentive to drive down the price of cheese at that particular market. The Secretary of Agriculture has authority to change the formula. He has instituted a 60-day comment period on the formula in response to the recent price drop, and several alternative methods for determining the market price for cheese have been suggested. The Secretary is following the normal course for making a change in the formula. He does not have to follow that course. He has full authority to make immediate, unilateral changes. We urge him, therefore, to break the formula's link with the price of cheese at the Green Bay Exchange. The farmers in our States need relief now; many will go bankrupt if they have to wait much longer. We trust most of our colleagues agree, and will join us in passing this

(See other side)

YEAS (83)				NAYS (15)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republican (41 or 75%)		Democrats (42 or 98%)		Republicans (14 or 25%)	Democrats (1 or 2%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (2)
Abraham	Inhofe	Akaka	Inouye	Allard	Lautenberg		Breaux- ²
Ashcroft	Jeffords	Baucus	Johnson	Bennett			Leahy- ⁴
Burns	Lott	Biden	Kennedy	Bond			
Chafee	Lugar	Bingaman	Kerrey	Brownback			
Cochran	McCain	Boxer	Kerry	Campbell			
Collins	McConnell	Bryan	Kohl	Coats			
Coverdell	Murkowski	Bumpers	Landrieu	Craig			
D'Amato	Nickles	Byrd	Levin	Enzi			
DeWine	Roth	Cleland	Lieberman	Hatch			
Domenici	Santorum	Conrad	Mikulski	Kempthorne			
Faircloth	Sessions	Daschle	Moseley-Braun	Kyl			
Frist	Shelby	Dodd	Moynihan	Mack			
Gorton	Smith, Bob	Dorgan	Murray	Roberts			
Gramm	Smith, Gordon	Durbin	Reed	Thomas			
Grams	Snowe	Feingold	Reid				
Grassley	Specter	Feinstein	Robb				
Gregg	Stevens	Ford	Rockefeller				
Hagel	Thompson	Glenn	Sarbanes				
Helms	Thurmond	Graham	Torricelli				
Hutchinson	Warner	Harkin	Wellstone				
Hutchison		Hollings	Wyden				

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

resolution urging the Secretary of Agriculture to take immediate action.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to passage.